

### Consonant Generalizations

Generalization	Utility	Example	Exception
When two of the same consonants appear side by side in a word, only one is heard.	99%	berry	suggest
When the letter <i>c</i> is followed by the letter <i>o</i> or <i>a</i> , the <i>c</i> stands for the /k/ sound.	100%	cat	
The digraph <i>ch</i> is usually pronounced /ch/ as is <i>watch</i> and <i>chair</i> , not /sh/.	95%	batch	machine
When the letters <i>c</i> and <i>h</i> appear next to each other in a word, they stand for only one sound.	100%	rich	
The letter <i>g</i> often has a sound similar to that of the letter <i>j</i> in <i>jump</i> when it comes before the letter <i>i</i> or <i>e</i> .	64%	ginger	give
When the letter <i>c</i> is followed by the letter <i>e</i> or <i>i</i> , the /s/ sound is likely to be heard.	96%	cent	ocean
When a word ends in the letters <i>ck</i> , it has the /k/ sound as in <i>book</i> .	100%	sick	
When the letters <i>ght</i> appear together in a word, the letters <i>gh</i> are silent.	100%	fight	
When a word begins with the letters <i>kn</i> , the letter <i>k</i> is silent.	100%	know	
When a word begins with the letters <i>wr</i> , the letter <i>w</i> is silent.	100%	write	

### Vowel Generalizations

Rule	Utility	Example	Exception
If there is one vowel letter in an accented syllable, it has its short sound.	61%	city	lady
When a word has only one vowel letter, the vowel sound is likely to be short.	57%	lid	mind
When two vowels appear together in a word, the long sound of the first one is heard and the second is usually silent.	45%	seat	chief
When a vowel is in the middle of a one-syllable word, the vowel is short.	62%	best	gold
The letter <i>r</i> gives the preceding vowel a sound that is neither long nor short.	78%	torn	fire
When there are two vowels, one of which is final <i>e</i> , the first vowel is long and the <i>e</i> is silent.	63%	hope	come

The first vowel is usually long and the second silent in the digraphs <i>ai</i> , <i>ea</i> , <i>oa</i> , and <i>ui</i> .	<b>66%</b> <b>ai-64%</b> <b>oa-97%</b> <b>ea-66%</b> <b>ui-6%</b>	nail boat bead suit	said cupboard head build
When a word ends with silent <i>e</i> , the preceding <i>a</i> or <i>i</i> is long.	<b>60%</b>	bake	have
When the letter <i>y</i> is the final letter in a word, it usually has a vowel sound.	<b>84%</b>	dry	tray
When the letter <i>y</i> is used as a vowel in words, it sometimes has the sound of long <i>i</i> .	<b>15%</b>	fly	funny
When <i>y</i> or <i>ey</i> appears in the last syllable that is not accented, the long- <i>e</i> sound is heard.	<b>0%</b>		baby
The letter <i>a</i> has the same sound (/o/) when followed by <i>l</i> , <i>w</i> , and <i>u</i> .	<b>48%</b>	fall	canal
The letter <i>w</i> is sometimes a vowel and follows the vowel digraph rule.	<b>40%</b>	snow	few
When there is one <i>e</i> in a word that ends in a consonant, the <i>e</i> usually has a short sound.	<b>76%</b>	pet	flew
In many two- and three-syllable words, the final <i>e</i> lengthens the vowel in the last syllable.	<b>46%</b>	invite	gasoline
Words having double <i>e</i> usually have the long- <i>e</i> sound.	<b>98%</b>	feet	been
The letters <i>ow</i> stand for the long- <i>o</i> sound.	<b>59%</b>	own	town
When the letter <i>a</i> follows the letter <i>w</i> in a word, it usually has the sound that <i>a</i> stands for as in <i>was</i> .	<b>32%</b>	watch	swam
In the vowel spelling <i>ie</i> , the <i>i</i> is silent and the letter <i>e</i> has the long-vowel sound.	<b>17%</b>	field	friend
In <i>ay</i> , the <i>y</i> is silent and gives <i>a</i> its long sound.	<b>78%</b>	play	always
If the only vowel letter is at the end of a word, the letter usually stands for a long sound.	<b>74%</b>	me	do
When the letter <i>e</i> is followed by the letter <i>w</i> , the vowel sound is the same as represented by <i>oo</i> (long /oo/).	<b>35%</b>	blew	sew
When the letter <i>a</i> is followed by the letter <i>r</i> and final <i>e</i> , we expect to hear the sound heard in <i>care</i> .	<b>90%</b>	dare	are



When the letter <i>i</i> is followed by the letters <i>gh</i> , the letter <i>i</i> usually stands for its long sound and the <i>gh</i> is silent.	71%	high	neighbor
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### Syllable Generalizations

If the first vowel sound in a word is followed by two consonants, the first syllable usually ends with the first of the two consonants.	72%	bullet	singer
If the first vowel sound in a word is followed by a single consonant, that consonant usually begins the second syllable.	44%	over	oven
In a word of more than one syllable, the letter <i>v</i> usually goes with the preceding vowel to form a syllable.	73%	cover	clover
If the last syllable of a word ends in <i>le</i> , the consonant preceding the <i>le</i> usually begins the last syllable.	97%	tumble	buckle
When the first vowel in a word is followed by <i>th</i> , <i>ch</i> , or <i>sh</i> , these symbols are not broken when the word is divided into syllables, and they may go with either the first or second syllable.	100%	dishes	
In most two-syllable words, the first syllable is accented.	85%	famous	polite
When the last syllable is the sound <i>r</i> , it is unaccented.	95%	butter	appear
In most two-syllable words that end in a consonant followed by <i>y</i> , the first syllable is accented and the last is unaccented.	96%	baby	supply
If <i>a</i> , <i>in</i> , <i>re</i> , <i>ex</i> , <i>de</i> , or <i>be</i> is the first syllable in a word it is usually unaccented.	87%	above	insect
When <i>tion</i> is the final syllable in a word, it is unaccented.	100%	nation	
When <i>ture</i> is the final syllable in a word, it is unaccented.	100%	picture	

Updated list from *Phonics from A to Z* by Wiley Blevins based on 1963 Clymer study. Pages 133- 136.